



H A W A I I A N H O M E S T E A D T E C H N O L O G Y , I N C .

January 30, 2005

Marlene H. Dortch
Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

RE: Support Comments for Petition for Waiver, CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Secretary Dortch,

Hawaiian Homestead Technology, Inc. (HHT) is in full support of the Sandwich Isles Communications, Inc. (SIC) filing of the petition for waiver identified as CC Docket No. 96-45 and strongly urges your approval. As this letter outlines, SIC has been an invaluable partner providing telecommunications infrastructure that has allowed our firm to create desperately needed jobs in severely underserved communities.

When we looked at creating our first technology center in the rural community of Anahola, Kauai, there were no providers of high speed Internet access servicing the area, a service vital to our business. I couldn't believe that even in 2003 such a massive disparity of service options existed between our metro and rural communities. We know how hard it is to get service from experience. We tried to work with traditional providers of Internet services. One vendor told us "we don't yet have Anahola in our roll out schedule, but it's coming." SIC assured us they would be able to provide us with affordable telephone service and access to high-speed broadband connectivity, and they have done so with outstanding service. Had we waited for the other provider, our site would not have launched when it did. Leveraging SIC's services, our technology center has sustained a dozen jobs in a community that had virtually no jobs. In fact, the center has already done high profile projects like digitizing the manuals for the F16 fighter jet, and is on track to nearly double in size this year.

Hawaiian homeland (HHL) communities, for many reasons including a lack of the basic business infrastructure found in metro areas, house a disproportional amount of our nation's unemployed, underemployed, and low to moderate income. It is this population, a group full of talented individuals, that we target for employment. Of our first dozen employees, half were unemployed and the other half were vastly underemployed earning less than \$5,500 a year. Most didn't even have basic medical insurance. Our ability to reach out to this talent pool requires the visionary and community-mindness of partners like SIC.

Already, HHT has set up a second production facility in the rural community of Waimanalo and expect results similar to our Anahola site. SIC has continued to be our telecommunications partner and is providing our Waimanalo facility with the same level of service and quality we have come to appreciate.

We commend SIC for the vision and heart to serve HHL communities with affordable telephone and broadband services. We are now up to 17 hard working employees who work daily using SIC's network, and we are just one small company. It is imperative that SIC be granted the waiver, so that the economic revitalization effort taking place in HHL communities continue without disruption.

Best,



Olin Lagon, CEO